



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Maritime Facility Fees and Charges

### Maritime facility fees for 2024-25

#### 1. What are the key changes for vessel accommodation users in 2024-25?

DoT is implementing a consistent state-wide vessel accommodation fee structure.

In 2024-25, existing vessel accommodation fee targets will be increased by 3 per cent, meaning that fees for any pen, berth or mooring fees already at state-wide target levels, will increase by approximately 3 per cent; while others still below target will increase by up to 10 per cent plus 3 per cent, unless they meet target this year.

This means that vessel accommodation fees for nearly 90 per cent of our customers will increase by 3 per cent. Around 5 per cent will reach target in 2024-25 and therefore increase by between 3 and 13 per cent; with the remaining 5 per cent increasing by 13 per cent.

#### 2. Why do we need a State-wide fee structure?

DoT started the transition to a State-wide fee structure in 2018 aiming to have customers pay the same fee for the same vessel accommodation type no matter the location within ten years.

For example, the fee for a fixed pen with walkway at Kalbarri would eventually be the same as the fee for a fixed pen with walkway at Fremantle Challenger Boat Harbour; and the fee for a floating pen with walkway at Albany Waterfront Marina would be the same as the fee for a floating pen with walkway at Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour.

The new fee structure was also an opportunity to address the growing disparity between revenue generated from fees and charges and the cost of maintaining facilities, reflecting Government policy which requires that fees and charges are set based on user pays principles.

#### 3. What are the State-wide vessel accommodation fee targets?

Vessel accommodation category	State-wide annual target fee in 2024-25 (inc GST)
Floating pen with walkway	\$ 716.50
Floating pen with walkway (service vessel)	\$ 931.45
Floating alongside berth	\$ 716.50
Floating alongside berth (service vessel)	\$ 931.45
Floating CAT pen with walkway	\$ 1,074.75
25 metre Pen with walkway (tropical cyclone zone)	\$ 1,146.40
Fixed pen with walkway	\$ 573.20
Fixed pen with walkway (service vessel)	\$ 788.15
Fixed CAT pen with walkway	\$ 859.80
Fixed alongside berth	\$ 573.20
Fixed alongside berth (service vessel)	\$ 788.15
Fixed pen no walkway	\$ 501.55
Pile mooring	\$ 286.60
Pile mooring (service vessel)	\$ 501.55
Swing mooring (user installed)	\$ 143.30

#### **4. Will my vessel accommodation fees increase in 2024-25?**

Yes, fees for all vessel accommodation will increase in 2024-25, with the vast majority increasing by just 3 per cent.

Fees for 5.6 per cent of vessel accommodation will reach target this year and increase by between 3 and 13 per cent; such as fixed alongside berths at Esperance and Carnarvon which will increase by 3.42 and 5.16 per cent respectively; pens and berths at Port Denison increase by 9.93 per cent; while pile moorings at Carnarvon increase by 12.33 per cent.

The remaining 5.1 per cent of vessel accommodation, which includes certain pens and berths at Emu Point, Carnarvon, Esperance and Kalbarri will increase by approximately 13 per cent from July 2024; with some expected to reach target by July 2025 and the remainder in July 2026.

For full details of fees please refer to Maritime facilities: *Schedule of fees and charges (2024/25)* on the DoT website at: [www.transport.wa.gov.au/marinefeechanges](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/marinefeechanges)

#### **5. Will any other maritime facility fees increase in 2024-25?**

Yes, fees for the provision of other services, such as fees for use of service jetties, live-on-board and cargo fees, will increase by approximately 3 per cent.

As fees are rounded to the nearest 5c or 10c, in some cases, particularly where a fee is of low value, the resulting increase may be more or less than 3 per cent.

#### **6. When will the changes be implemented and when will the new fees apply?**

The fees for 2024-25 are effective from 1 July 2024. Any new fees will apply to invoices for periods commencing, or services used, on or after 1 July 2024.

#### **7. When do vessel accommodation fees have to be paid?**

All vessel accommodation fees are payable on or before the specified due date on receipt of an Invitation to Renew (ITR) or invoice.

#### **8. Can I pay online?**

Yes. If you have been issued with an ITR or an invoice by DoT, then you can pay online via the secure transaction site [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au). Click on the online payments link of DoTDirect and follow the prompts. Please note, to claim input tax credits (also known as GST credit), you must retain a record of payment (such as a credit card statement or a confirmation of online payment, attached to the ITR). This is considered acceptable for input tax credit purposes.

## **General vessel accommodation queries**

#### **9. Will my fees increase again next year?**

Yes. Vessel accommodation fees for any maritime facilities that remain below target will continue to transition to the state-wide fees by 10 per cent plus CPI in 2025-26; while other fees may increase by CPI or as directed by Government.

#### **10. Why are there different fees for different vessel accommodation types?**

- Fees for pens are charged per length of the pen occupied; whilst fees for alongside berths, pile moorings and swing moorings are charged per overall length of the vessel, as the length of vessels using these structures may vary considerably.
- Floating pens and berths provide customers with enhanced services such as side access to vessels; standard ingress/egress in all tides; security access gates; more convenient access to water and electricity.
- Fixed pens and berths are generally older and provide customers with reduced services such as limited or no walkways, and reduced access to water and electricity.
- Piled or swing moorings do not have pedestrian access and no direct access to power or water.

## 11. How do I calculate my vessel accommodation fee?

Vessel accommodation length **X** fee per period **X** number of periods.

Length is determined by the vessel accommodation type:

- If your vessel is using a fixed or floating alongside berth or a mooring, then the length used to calculate the fee will be the overall vessel length, rounded down to the nearest whole metre.
- If your vessel is accommodated in a fixed or floating pen, then the length will be the described pen length.

For example:

- For a 15.3 metre vessel accommodated on a user installed swing mooring at Bunbury Casuarina Boat Harbour for two weeks, the charge is 15 (metre) X \$6.45 (the standard State-wide fee per week including GST) X two (weeks) = \$193.50
- For a 15.3 metre vessel in an 18 metre pen at Augusta Boat Harbour for two weeks; the charge is 18 (100 per cent of pen length) X \$32.20 (fee per week including GST) X two (weeks) = \$1,159.20

## 12. Why is the overall vessel length important to harbour management?

DoT requires a vessel's overall length to ensure manoeuvrability and safe accommodation of vessels at its facilities. The overall vessel length, which includes attachments such as a marlin board or bowsprit, can in some cases be several metres longer than the registered length and this can mean that the vessel dangerously protrudes over jetties or into the fairway. This must be considered when allocating vessel accommodation.

## 13. Can I rent out my pen to someone else while I'm not using it?

No. As outlined in the terms and conditions, which you agreed to as part of your initial vessel accommodation agreement, you must not assign, transfer, mortgage, charge, sub-licence or otherwise part with your pen, whether for benefit or otherwise; and any change in the nominated vessel may only occur with the prior written consent of DoT. To ensure the safety of all harbour users and their vessels it is critical that DoT is aware of who is in the marina at all times.

For the most part you will be assigned a pen and will enjoy the use of this pen without interruption. However, DoT retains the right to move your vessel for operational or safety reasons from time to time. Your agreement gives you the right to use vessel accommodation at the specified maritime facility, but not any particular pen. This allows DoT to optimise the use of its vessel accommodation, for the benefit of all users, particularly when penholders are away for extended periods.

If you are planning to be away for some time, it may be financially beneficial to relinquish the pen and commence a new term on your return. However, if you require surety that vessel accommodation will be available on your return, then you should retain your existing vessel accommodation agreement.

## 14. If I relinquish my pen or mooring can I get a refund of my fees?

Yes, you are likely to be eligible for a refund if you relinquish your pen or mooring prior to your original licence end date. However, refunds are not provided on a pro rata basis, but are based on the fee that should have been charged for the actual licence period used.

For example, if you paid an annual fee for a 15 metre floating pen at Augusta for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 at \$716.50 per metre then you would have paid \$10,747.50. If you then left after nine months, the fee applicable would revert to the three month or more rate of \$65.35 per metre per month, being \$8,822.25; and you would be eligible for a refund of \$1,925.25.

If you need to relinquish your pen or mooring, please contact your harbour, who will provide a copy of the relinquishment form to be completed and will be happy to calculate to see whether you are eligible for a refund.

## 15. How are fees for utilities calculated?

The use of single-phase power and water delivered from upstands located on DoT jetties is included within the user's vessel accommodation fees.

Three-phase power and bulk water that is metered is charged to users according to the quantity consumed. Bulk water supplied across a service wharf or jetty is a service charge (a charge for the service of supplying water to a vessel). As such, bulk water fees are charged at a rate commensurate with the cost that the utilities provider charges to DoT. The service fee also includes GST.

## 16. Can I use my commercial vessel for recreational purposes while I am on holiday?

Yes, during the period that the vessel is being used solely for recreational purposes you will be charged the appropriate recreational fee. Please contact your local harbour office to discuss.

## Service jetties and wharves

### 17. If I have paid for vessel accommodation do I benefit from use of DoT managed service jetties and wharves?

- If a customer\* has paid for annual vessel accommodation\*\* at any DoT maritime facility, they are entitled to free short-term use of any DoT managed service jetty or wharf within the State. This short-term use is for up to one hour in any 24-hour period\* and is subject to availability.
- If a customer\* has paid for a shorter period of vessel accommodation\*\* at a maritime facility, they can use the service jetty or wharf for up to one hour in any 24-hour period at that maritime facility only, for the period of their vessel accommodation\*.
- Please note, the one-hour limit for short-term use of a service wharf or jetty\* may be extended for licensed fishing vessels to complete active loading or unloading operations, subject to the vessel vacating the berth to facilitate other operations if required by an Officer of the Department or an Authorised Person and subject to the extended period only applying if active loading or unloading operations are continuously in progress.

### 18. How do I access the service jetties and wharves if I don't have vessel accommodation in a DoT managed maritime facility?

Customers\* without vessel accommodation\*\* that require short-term access to DoT service jetties or wharves on a regular basis can purchase an annual permit allowing short-term use of these facilities, subject to availability. Pick up an application form from your nearest harbour management office and once payment has been received a permit can be granted.

### 19. What are the fees for using service jetties and wharves?

- For customers\* without vessel accommodation\*\* that want short term access to DoT service jetties or wharves on a regular basis, the annual fee payable is \$97.15 per metre of vessel length, rounded down to the nearest whole metre.
- Customers\* that want to use a service jetty or wharf for longer than one hour in any 24-hour period will be charged a daily fee, as appropriate for that vessel.
- For daily use of a service jetty or wharf by a commercial vessel\* or a recreational vessel that is 25 metres or more in length the fee is \$8.50 per metre of vessel length, rounded down to the nearest whole metre.
- For daily use of a service jetty or wharf by a recreational vessel that is less than 25 metres in length the fee is \$60.60.
- If a vessel is refuelling then there is no vessel accommodation charge for the use of the associated service jetty or wharf, while refuelling and simultaneous loading/unloading operations (if applicable) are continuously in progress. If a vessel wishes to remain at the service jetty or wharf after refuelling and simultaneous loading/unloading operations are complete, then an appropriate accommodation fee will be applied.

For further information please see the information sheet for *Use of service jetties and wharves* at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/marinefeechanges](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/marinefeechanges).

## More information

### 20. Where can I find more information?

For further information about DoT maritime facilities please go to <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imate/marine/main-marine-search-page.asp>

For all general enquiries or to provide feedback please email us at [facilityfees@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:facilityfees@transport.wa.gov.au)

\*These fees and conditions apply at all DoT managed maritime facilities, except for those in the Swan Canning Rivers where short-term use of a service jetty is restricted to 15 minutes at a time or less on event days at Burswood Jetty; and for service vessels using maritime facilities at Exmouth, Onslow, Point Samson and Port Hedland, for which separate fees apply.

\*\*Vessel accommodation is a pen, alongside berth or mooring within a DoT managed harbour or maritime facility, for which a fee has been paid to DoT.